

# Hawaii MARINE

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## Farewell to Gen. McAbee



Photos by Sgt. Joseph Lee

Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee (left), and Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III salute as their troops pass in review during MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay's change of command ceremony Aug. 16. Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific was also in attendance at the ceremony to pass on his words of encouragement to the new commanding general.

### Trautman takes the helm of MCB Hawaii

**Pfc. Rich Mattingly**  
*Combat Correspondent*

With the Marine Corps Air Facility flight line graced by more stars than this year's BayFest concert line-up, Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee formally turned over command of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Monday, to the incoming commanding officer, Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III.

With the pomp, circumstance and attention to orders befitting a commanding Marine at the peak of his career, platoons of sharply dressed Marines in dress blue delta uniforms marched across the parade deck to military cadence provided by the Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band.

After the invocation, publication of orders and honors for guests, Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific spoke glowingly of the three years McAbee has kept K-bay running as smoothly as any base in the Corps.

"This is a unique base," said an energetic Gregson. "It is a fully-integrated base [with the Navy]. We fly together, we exercise together and we have a fully-integrated Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron."

Gregson also had high praise for the McAbee's efforts to improve the quality of Marines, Sailors and their families sta-

See *COMMAND*, A-2

## Base 'cops' help Special Olympics

**Sgt. Joseph Lee**  
*Press Chief*

Military policemen from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, plan to participate in the "Cop-on-Top" program for the first time in Windward Oahu, to help raise money for Special Olympics Hawaii for three days in September.

"Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to go toward Special Olympics programs here on the island," said Gunnery Sgt. Dean Scrabeck, Special Olympics representative for the Provost Marshals Office here.

The Cop-on-Top program, usually associated with, and most often conducted by the Honolulu Police Department in Leeward Oahu, involves police officers sitting atop local Safeway grocery stores, collecting donations from passersby until each location reaches its \$10,000 mark, according to Blake.

All money raised stays in Hawaii to establish and maintain programs for thousands of people with intellectual disabilities in the state. Cop-on-Top is one of several fund-raising programs keeping Special Olympics Hawaii alive.

Cop-on-Top began as a variation of "Tip-a-Cop." A program in which Honolulu Police Officers serve customers at local restaurants, and the tips they earn all go to SOHI, according to Blake.

"So far this year, the Honolulu Police and state Sheriff's Division Officers have raised more than

\$50,000 from the Cop-on-Top program," said Blake. "Now the military police can contribute from Windward Oahu as well."

According to Windward area director Lilia Roberts, help from the military community is always appreciated by Special Olympics Hawaii.

"Since I have been here, I have seen so much volunteerism from the military community, which makes me so proud," said Roberts. "From military members to their families and friends, I have counted more than 3,000 volunteers from Windward Oahu. I am excited to be a part of a military community that is so active with Special Olympics programs."

Service members from around the island are participating in similar programs all over Oahu this summer, according to Scrabeck, to support Special Olympics. Money raised will also contribute to the food and water for the hungry rooftop officers.

"This is a great and beneficial thing we are doing out there," said Scrabeck. "We will be out there with HPD day and night until we reach our goal."

Local community and service members can support Special Olympics by visiting the Aikahi Park Shopping Center from 6 a.m. Sept. 2, until 2 p.m. Sept. 4, and gain additional information about Special Olympics Hawaii by visiting [www.specialolympichawaii.org](http://www.specialolympichawaii.org).

## Marines hold in Fallujah



Sgt. Jose E. Guillen

Pfc. Nathan A. Baxter (left) and Lance Cpl. Joseph R. Hannon, both mortarmen with Mortars Platoon, Company K, 3/1, shuffle through ammunition cans of 60 mm rounds for more potential fire missions directed at enemy pockets in Fallujah, Iraq Aug. 14.

**Sgt. Jose E. Guillen**  
*1st Marine Division*

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Marines dodged bullets and mortar fire to grab hold of key terrain south of Fallujah Aug. 13.

The Marines of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment are keeping a strong position at Traffic Control Point 8 to deter anti-coalition forces from transporting munitions.

"This position is vital, so we're ensuring no enemy personnel are transporting weapons in and out of Fallujah," said Sgt. Fernando

See *IRAQ*, A-4

## Marine's cousin gets wish

**Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Media Chief*

Many people go through life on a day-to-day basis, with their main concerns being what's for dinner, who won the football game, and how crummy their life is because they have to get up early the next day to begin the routine all over again. Imagine if you were seven years old, and knew that tomorrow you might not wake up?

For one boy from Houston this holds true. His days are limited, and one of his final wishes was to come to Hawaii and see his Marine cousin for possibly the last time.

"I always wanted to see my cousin and the base that he works on," said Cameron James, who bares a light scar from brain surgery performed only months before. "I could pick anything I wanted from the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and this is definitely it."

Cameron was diagnosed with a rare form of brain tumor after experiencing a series of painful headaches.

"I was really scared when I first got to the hospital," said the 7-year-old boy. "But, then I got used to it and got to meet a lot of cool people. The whole experience has been kind of fun in that way."

The eight-day getaway to Hawaii was

See *WISH*, A-5



NEWS BRIEFS

Intelligence Specialists Needed

The Marine Corps needs male sergeants and corporals to make a lateral move from any military occupational specialty to the counterintelligence specialist field MOS 0211. Qualified Marines would plan and conduct different aspects of counter and human intelligence operations and activities; including utilizing interrogation techniques, investigative photography and other capabilities required to accomplish the mission. Applicants must meet certain requirements including; a minimum GT score of 110, have 36 months of obligated service remaining, and must be 21 and over. For further requirements and details call 477-8903 or e-mail osbornda@mfp.usmc.mil.

Submit Salutes to Hawaii Marine

Units wanting to submit information for “Salutes” should send an e-mail to editor @hawaiimarine.com or call 257-8836.

O’Club Parking Reserved for Patrons Only

The parking area for the Officers Club aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, is to be used only by patrons of the club while visiting the facility.

Residents of the Bachelor Officer Quarters must use the BOQ parking area, which is provided on the opposite side of the BOQ from the O’Club.

Back Gate Hours Reminder

The MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, back gate, on Mokapu Road, is open seven days a week, from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. The hours were extended to better support the base and its military community.

Noise Prohibited on Mokapu Stretch

In consideration for the neighbors of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, formations running near the back gate or on the trail around the Nuupia Ponds are prohibited from chanting or making excessive noise.

Important Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlights Repair	257-2380

Hawaii MARINE

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Every vote counts

Pfc. Rich Mattingly  
Combat Correspondent

Tune any television set to the warm cathode-ray glow of your favorite news channel, and you won’t be able to escape it. Pick up a copy of a paper in town, and it crawls across the headlines and bursts from the margins. Even radio bandwidth these days are clogged with talk show pundits and sound bites. It’s unavoidable in the blitz of our media-centric culture. It’s time to get registered to vote and find out how to cast your absentee ballot.

An election can be hard to face with our modern media and its tendency to overload us with information and spin. In fact, more Americans avoid the polls altogether each year. Only half of the voting-age population made it to the polls in the last presidential election, according to poll figures from www.fec.gov/pages/2000turnout/reg&to00.htm.

“Some people may see voting as a hassle, but it’s very important. It’s part of what makes America such a great country,” said Capt. Mike Habba, commander of Headquarters and Service Company, Headquarters Battalion, MCB Hawaii and battalion voting assistance officer.

Most would agree with our many freedoms and rights, it’s easy to forget the importance of voting and undervalue the importance of a single vote, continued Habba. So much money and marketing is involved in electing a president, that an individual can feel irrelevant to the process. Nevertheless, in a democratic country, no right should be more zealously guarded than the right to select official representatives to carry out the lawmaking and governing of our country.

“We’re serving our country, and voting is one right that we’ve fought for since 1775,” added Habba.

A question often asked by service members is just how much leeway a Marine or Sailor has in supporting a political campaign or displaying political material.

Department of Defense directive 1344.10 states, “As a matter of long-



standing policy, DoD personnel in their official capacity may not engage in activities that associate DoD with any partisan political campaign or election, candidate, cause or issue.”

The directive goes on to state, “All military personnel, including National Guard and reserve forces, acting in their official capacity may not engage in public commentary, including speeches and written submissions offered for publication, concerning political campaigns or elections ... shall not distribute political campaign or election literature while in uniform, while acting in their official capacity, or while on a military installation.”

According to the base Public Affairs Office, it’s a matter of tact and professionalism.

While it’s perfectly acceptable to have a bumper sticker on your privately owned vehicle supporting a candidate, or to wear a political T-shirt, it’s not appropriate to make politically-charged comments in the office or pass out a candidate’s flyers to your fellow Marines. Erring on the side of propriety and caution during this most volatile of political seasons is your best bet.

“There is no restriction on expressing personal opinions on political candidates or issues as long as you do not do so at the expense of mission effectiveness or a cohesive atmosphere at work,” explained Lt. Col. Laulie Powell, base staff judge advocate.

Each unit at MCB Hawaii and its

tenant commands has a voting assistance officer who is responsible at the unit level for assisting service members who wish to vote.

There are currently two ways Marines and Sailors can get registered to vote. They can get a Federal Post Card Application from their voting assistance officer or online at www.fvap.gov. This form will register service members in the state where their home of record is located.

It’s also important to use the form to update your address if you’ve just moved to Hawaii or haven’t re-registered here, said Habba. Absentee ballots are not forwarded by the post office, so Sailors and Marines with an old address on record might not receive their ballots.

Marines and Sailors will be able to vote whether on post or in the field come election time, if they take the appropriate steps now.

Despite the pressure of withering media coverage, Habba also stressed the importance of making an informed decision once service members have been registered.

“With the news media, there’s always a biased opinion. Depending on which way a particular media outlet slants, they’ll try to put out more stories about a particular candidate,” explained Habba. “You have to take everything you see or hear with a grain of salt. I would encourage service members to check out several different media sources.”

Any additional questions about the voting process can be answered by your unit’s voting assistance officer.

COMMAND, From A-1

tioned here.

Next came the passing of the colors, and the change of command became official.

McAbee spoke first, with the frank and honest approach Marines and Sailors here have come to expect from their commanding officer. He touched briefly on his own achievements, preferring to let the praise rest on the shoulders of others.

“We’ve achieved a model here for how to take care of our families,” said McAbee, speaking of the many building projects he oversaw during his tenure here.

“We have new club facilities for our single Marines and Sailors, new family housing units, a new post office and soon we’ll have a new base chapel,” he continued.

In fact, McAbee has overseen the construction of 184 new junior enlisted housing units, 212 family housing units and 37 new playgrounds throughout the base.

McAbee was then recognized by the Hawaii House of Representatives for his many efforts to improve not only the community relations the Marine Corps has on Oahu, but also the quality of the environment surrounding the base.

During his tenure, McAbee has been heralded as a being on the vanguard of environmental awareness, with the base winning three Secretary of the Navy environmental security



Sgt. Joseph Lee

Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee and wife, Margaret, are serenaded by the MarForPac Band during the change of command ceremony Monday. McAbee had the band play “Wind beneath my wings” in honor of the role his wife has played as the first lady. The couple will soon celebrate 35 years of marriage.

awards, and being runner-up three times for Secretary of Defense environmental awards. The endangered species living on base couldn’t have asked for a better commander either, as McAbee was also responsible for the diversion of over 165,000 pounds of hazardous waste with his Hazardous Material Consolidation Project and spending millions of dollars on watershed improvements and wildlife habitat enhancement projects.

McAbee then thanked his “shipmates,” jokingly referring to the often mocked, but always relied upon union of the Navy/Marine Corps Team aboard K-Bay.

The outgoing commander also offered praise to the veterans and retired Marines attending the ceremony, including two Medal of Honor winners.

“Our veterans pass to us our cus-

oms, they guide our young people,” said McAbee. “But more importantly, they [gave] us our freedom.”

The next part of the Marine Corps family mentioned were civilian Marines, without whom, McAbee said, he could hang two “closed for business” signs at the front and back gates.

Finally, the general brought his wife, Margaret, whom he admitted he rarely thanked in public, forward to be serenaded by the band. The honor was clearly touching for the first lady of Marine Corps Base Hawaii who will celebrate

35 years of marriage to McAbee later this year.

The new commander, Brig. Gen. Trautman, coming from U. S. Central Command as the deputy director of plans and policy, is no stranger to the blue and green waters of the bay, as he first checked in to Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay as a pilot in 1977.

Trautman said Oahu truly felt like home to him and his family. His wife graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1980, and his father, a Marine himself, is buried in the Punchbowl Veterans Cemetery.

The oncoming commander spoke genuinely of retaining the legacy McAbee has helped build here, and of looking forward to the base he believes K-Bay will become.

He said “mahalo nui loa” to all attending, and then stood by with McAbee for the pass in review.





## India Company sharpens fire skills for Combined Arms Exercise

**Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** — Accelerated field training here, unites both new and experienced Marines of India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment just weeks before their deployment to the Combined Arms Exercise at the Marine Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

“We wanted to go back to the basics and work our way up, in order to ensure all our [new and veteran] Marines are proficient in everything from shooting the rifle to close air support tactics,” said 2nd Lt. G. Roy Bechtold, platoon commander.

The Marines of India Co. participated in familiar training.

The only difference was the speed at which they performed.

Capt. Jim G. Sweeney, company commander explained, the training’s rate of speed was increased due to the number of new Marines and the future deployment to California.

“Although the training was quicker and more demanding,” said Sweeney. “The Marines were excited, because they knew they might have the opportunity to go somewhere and apply what they have been training for.

“The training they will receive in California,” he continued, “is located at the very best possible training areas in the country.”

The change of scenery from training areas in Hawaii, to training areas in California, is a welcomed one for the Marines.

“Not only are we going to the

best training areas the Marine Corps offers,” said Bechtold, “we get a chance to experience the same terrain and weather we would be in if we would happen to get deployed to a combat zone in the future.”

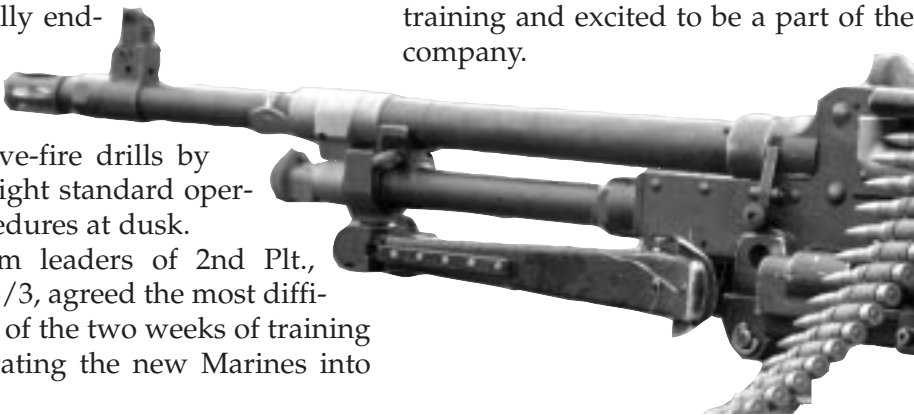
To prepare for CAX, the Marines of India Co. set out to begin a long two-week training exercise, which began Aug. 9. They commenced with patrols and squad level drills before moving on to convoy operations and vehicle checkpoint procedures, finally ending the training with a week of live-fire drills by day, and night standard operating procedures at dusk.

The team leaders of 2nd Plt., India Co. 3/3, agreed the most difficult aspect of the two weeks of training was integrating the new Marines into

the company during such an accelerated period of instruction.

“Our company is now made up of nearly 75 percent new Marines,” said Lance Cpl. Tim M. Davis, team leader. “They arrived about one month ago and since then we have been bringing them up to speed with the way we do things here, and having a good time doing it.”

Cpl. Mike D. Boiser, team leader, added the newer Marines are doing very well. They are really into the training and excited to be a part of the company.



A Marine with 2nd Platoon fires an M-16A2 service rifle downrange during a live-fire exercise designed to teach Marines how to shoot while on the move.



Marines from Headquarters and Service Company join their 3rd Marine Regiment comrades on the firing line. Although they were not directly involved in the training, they took advantage of the range to get in some trigger time.

## Word on the Street

*What has been your most interesting experience in the Navy/Marine Corps?*



“Getting sprayed with O.C. spray, I will never forget that!”

**Cpl. Laura Rohner**  
Supply clerk  
Headquarters Battalion,  
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay



“Meeting so many interesting people.”

**Sgt. Cornelius Jones**  
Quality assurance representative  
MALS-24



“Going to Bahrain. We had a good time and saw some interesting sights.”

**Cpl. Michael Brown**  
Machinegunner  
Fox Co., 2/3



“The boot camp experience, [it] was the first time I ever left home for any long period of time.”

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Larger**  
Ordnance technician  
MALS-24



“Sea duty on an aircraft carrier.”

**Capt. Michael Cagle**  
Commanding officer  
Golf Co., 2/3



3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

# Tag-team gives call for supporting fire

**Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment teamed up with various other units on base, Aug. 10 – 11, for a training exercise designed to teach Marines how to call for supporting fire (artillery, mortars, Naval surface fires and air fire).

The units formed a fire support team (FiST), a fire direction center (FDC) and a gun line that all worked together to complete the mission of the commanding officer.

Teamwork defined by Webster’s Dictionary is: work done by several associates with each doing a part, but all subordinating personal prominence to the efficiency of the whole.

Although many of the Marines had never gone through this training, let alone worked with this many other units, the evolution went smoothly due to a great deal of teamwork, patience and persistence.

“They did very well,” said 2nd Lt. Chris J. Mellon, weapons platoon commander for Kilo Company, 3/3. “They picked it up extremely quickly and the team work is great.”

The process of locating the enemy to then firing and destroying the enemy is a lot more difficult than it sounds.

The first component that comes into action is the FiST team, which is composed of an overall FiST leader, a forward air controller, an artillery forward observer and two mortar forward



Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

**Pfc. Jovan Mena (right), a gunner, and Lance Cpl. Jeremy McNear, an assistant gunner, both with Weapons Company, 3/3, check the sights on an 81mm mortar while participating as members of the gun-line during a Fire Support Team exercise.**

observers (one 60mm observer and one 81mm observer). Its objective is to locate the enemy, figure the enemy’s direction and distance and relay the information to the appropriate FDC. The FDC, composed of a 81mm control man and a 60mm control man, as well as the air element control man, takes the information and puts it into a hand held computer, which computes the deflection, elevation and charge (sets the coordinates for

fire) and sends information to the gun line. The gun line then sets the sights and sends the rounds down range. Basically, the commanding officer gives a command to the FiST team who finds the enemy and contacts the FDC, the FDC gets the coordinates and sends them to the gun line, and the gun line blows up

the enemy.

The process became easier throughout the training procedure. The time it took from start to finish dropped from nearly half an hour at the beginning of the day to less than 10 minutes.

“A lot of these Marines are new and this training can be difficult,” said Pfc. Carl E. Barney, mortar-man with Lima Company 3/3. “This exercise required a lot of teamwork. Although it was hectic, everyone caught on to what they needed to do really quickly.”

This training took place inside an indoor simulated marksman training facility because the available equipment can easily give the teams different scenarios to train on.

“We begin the training using static targets,” explained Mellon, “then we progress to moving targets and night scenarios, and eventually reaching a scenario involving moving targets under hazardous conditions.”

The process lets the Marines correct mistakes they possibly made while also keeping them on their toes.

“Basically we are training them to be able to locate an enemy and destroy it using as many different types of fire power as possible, as quickly as possible, without causing our units any injuries,” said 2nd Lt. John-Paul Sienicki, Rifle Platoon commander, Lima Co., 3/3.

## IRAQ, From A-1

Rafael, a squad leader in Weapons Platoon, Company K, 3/1.

“We’re just trying to keep the peace out here because this road is important,” said Sgt. James Eldridge, a 24-year-old team leader with the company, from Lynn, Mass.

While TCP 8 is subject to random rocket attacks, the company is dishing out its own mortar assaults at enemy pockets in Fallujah.

“Our mission is to support the company, snipers and tanks with

indirect fire with 60-millimeter mortars,” said Cpl. Ronald C. Xaaa III, a section leader with Mortars Platoon.

“Weapons Company is helping out with 81-millimeter mortars — it can get busy,” added Xaaa, a 24-year-old from Frankfurt, KY.

Rafael said that because of the anti-coalition forces’s lack of technology like night vision, enemy activity is at a minimum in the evening.

“It’s only busy during the day because they can see us,” Rafael explained.

Even so, engaging the enemy

can be a challenge.

“The indirect fire from the enemy is the most challenging because they’re out of range of small arms at times,” said Capt. Timothy J. Jent, the 37-year-old commanding officer of Company K, from Sparta, NJ.

Rafael said his company will eventually rotate out of position, but they feel they have given their enemy something to remember.

“The Iraqis have definitely felt our presence because we haven’t had too many enemy personnel attempt to come through our vehicle checkpoint,” Rafael said.

## DUIs are career killers



*(Editor’s Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those arrested for driving under the influence [DUI], driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine newspaper.)*

The Military Police Department added the following names to the DUI roster, suspended the license of the driver, and removed his or her vehicle and its DoD decal from the installation.

•Aug. 12, Seaman Eric S. Labath of Patrol Squadron 4, for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content of .14 percent.	Submarine Squadron Light 37, for DUI, with a BAC of .12 percent.
•Aug. 14, Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew C. Kramer of Helicopter Anti-	•Aug. 15, Cpl. Matthew G. Woolever of Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marines for DUI and reckless driving with a BAC of .08 percent.

# Retention Specialists keep Marines in Corps

## Service members encouraged to ‘get the ball rolling’ on re-enlistment plans

**Master Sgt. Patrick O. Buckley**  
*MCBH Career Planning*

The career retention specialists located here in Hawaii are responsible for the re-enlisting of all Marines stationed at MCB Kaneohe Bay and Camp Smith. Every year, the career retention specialists are given a goal of Marines they need to reenlist during the fiscal year. In fiscal year 2004, the career retention specialists located on MCBH exceeded

the goal of 253 first term reenlistments by 74 so far. For fiscal year 2005, they will be tasked with re-enlisting about the same number of first-term Marines in Hawaii. The career retention specialists were also very successful at getting careerists to re-enlist during fiscal year 2004. The mission was to re-enlist 144 careerists, and they have exceeded this goal already by helping more than 257 career Marines re-enlist. According to Master Sgt. Joe Taylor, 3rd Marine Regiment career retention specialist, “[The career retention specialist] is there to guide the Marine.” They give guidance by informing the Marine of the process and benefits they can receive. The career retention specialist submits packages to Headquarters Marine Corps for approval, and Marines

who receive a boat space prior to Oct. 1 will have 10 days following the beginning of the fiscal year to re-enlist or they will lose their spot. Boat spaces are going rapidly. According to Master Gunnery Sgt. Iosefa Elisara, noncommissioned officer in charge of career retention specialists in Marine Forces Pacific, several military occupational specialties have been so competitive for re-enlistment boat spaces that they have had to convene aboard at Headquarters Marine Corps to select the first-term Marines who will be allowed to stay in their military occupational specialty (MOS). “Requesting re-enlistment for first-term Marines is similar to standing in line at the chow hall,” said Gunnery Sgt. Eric Bartolome, CSSG-3’s career retention specialist. “If you get out of line, or

take your time and end up at the end of the line, your options become fewer as the Marines ahead of you scored all the good stuff.” To stay in one’s MOS, the Marine needs to see his or her battalion or squadron career retention specialist as soon as possible. If a military occupational specialty closes, Marines who do not have a boat space will not be able to re-enlist in that MOS but they have the option of laterally moving to another MOS within the Marine Corps. Re-enlistment requests for fiscal year ‘05 began being accepted on July 1st and will continue until the boatspaces are filled. Career retention specialists are Marines whose mission is to help others stay Marines, and they can help you, but you must get the ball rolling by picking up the phone, or walking to their offices.

### WISH, From A-1

made possible by a referral from social workers and doctors at the hospital Cameron was placed in, said Suzie James, Cameron’s mother. “They sat down with us in April and asked Cameron what he always wanted and he said he wanted to visit his cousin, Ken,” said Suzie. “After that they just planned a time that would be easiest for us around Cameron’s treatments, and this was the best time for us to come.” Cpl. Ken Dawson, a radio technician for Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, first met up with his cousin and the rest of the family Wednesday at Sea Life Park, Makapuu Point.

“I felt so honored when I found out about the Make-A-Wish Foundation trip,” said Dawson, of Austin, Texas. “It’s pretty amazing to hear that one of your cousin’s final wishes is to come and visit you, when he could have had anything he wanted.”

Dawson will take Cameron on his long-awaited tour of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Friday, along with Cameron’s brother, sister and parents.

“It will be great to just talk with him a lot,” said Dawson. “I want to catch up on old times with him, but haven’t been able to in the past few months since the family has been so busy with the entire ordeal.”

The day at Sea Life Park was filled with dolphin shows and sea turtle feedings, as the family caught up on old times and memories past.

“It makes you realize how precious life is,” said Dawson. “Cameron is so young and he has so much left to see. It’s amazing to me how he copes with the situation. He’s always so positive.”

Through it all, the burden still remains of having a child with a life threatening illness, said Suzie.

“We know the tumor will most likely never be fully removed and he is currently on chemotherapy,” said Suzie. “Though only time will tell, we pray a lot and know that God is in control.

“The Make-A-Wish Foundation has made so much possible for Cameron and other children like him,” said Suzie. “He has had the opportunity to do so much and now getting to see his cousin, someone he looks up to another time.”

During the rest of their stay, the James family will be experiencing plenty of beach time with surf lessons and helicopter rides, along with the K-Bay trip, before returning to Texas on Monday.



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

**Left — Cpl. Ken Dawson, radio technician for Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, sits with his cousin Cameron James during the dolphin show at Sea Life Park, Wednesday. Right — Cameron James, 7, prepares to drop a piece of lettuce into the water while feeding sea turtles.**



Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson